

CLAIMS

1. Apparatus (1) for registering weight and/or water content of fit and sick individuals, **characterised in that** the apparatus (1) includes a measuring cell (2) including at least two electric conducting plates (12) on which is applied a voltage from a power supply, and that the at least two electric conducting plates (12) are disposed with mutually opposite faces and with adjustable spacing, so that an individual or a well-defined part of the individual may be placed between the at least two electric conducting plates (12), and a measuring unit (11) including means for registering the change in capacity between the at least two electric conducting plates (12) and means for converting the capacity change into a numerical number which is correlated with the weight and/or the water content of the individual.
2. Apparatus (1) according to claim 1, **characterised in that** the at least two electric conducting plates (12) are provided in a metal alloy, preferably copper.
3. Apparatus (1) according to any of claims 1 – 2, **characterised in that** in immediate vicinity of the at least two electric plates (12) there is disposed a dispenser unit (13), preferably for dispensing water, feed and/or drugs.
4. Apparatus (1) according to any of claims 1 – 3, **characterised in that** at least one of the at least two electric conducting plates (12) is coated on at least one surface with an electric non-conducting material, preferably plastic (16).
5. Apparatus (1) according to claim 1, **characterised in that** the means of the measuring unit (11) for registering the capacity change between the at least two electric conducting plates (12) of the measuring cell (2) is one or more of the following components: measuring bridge and/or potentiometric set-up.
6. Apparatus (1) according to any of claims 1 or 5, **characterised in that** the means of the measuring unit (11) for converting the signal from the measuring cell includes one or more of the following components: at least one signal amplifier (4), a voltage rectifier (5); a filter (6), a converter (8), an MCU-unit (9) with a data store and/or a display

for displaying the numerical number.

5 7. Apparatus (1) according to any of claims 1 or 5 – 6, **characterised in that** the MCU-unit (9) of the measuring unit is coupled to a computer (10) for collecting the numerical numbers in a data collecting program.

10 8. Apparatus (1) according to any of claims 1 or 5 – 7, **characterised in that** the measuring unit (11) furthermore includes means for recognition of the individual disposed between the at least two electric conducting plates (12).

9. Apparatus (1) according to any of claims 1 – 8, **characterised in that** the computer (10) controls dispensing of water, feed and/or drugs in the dispensing unit on the basis of indication of a single individual and the registered weight.

15 10. Apparatus (1) according to any of claims 1 – 9, **characterised in that** the measuring unit (11) is provided on an add-on board for internal disposition in a computer (10), where one or more measuring units (11) are replaceably coupled to the add-on board.

20 11. Apparatus (1) according to any of claims 1 – 10, **characterised in that** the apparatus (1) furthermore includes an external weight unit.